

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /017 W  
-----106991 280716Z /21

R 280219Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0734  
AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
AMCONSUL PERTH  
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 4503

FROM CCP CAMPAIGN MANAGER

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: BEXP, AS  
SUBJ: EXPORT - CB RADIOS - MINISTER FOR POST AND TELECOM-  
MUNICATIONS ANNOUNCES CB LICENSING REGULATIONS

REF: (A) USDOC 06018 (B) USDOC 05683 (C) PARA 5, CANBERRA A-031

1. ON JUNE 23 MINISTER FOR POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCED THAT LICENSING OF THE CITIZEN'S BAND (CB) RADIO SERVICE WOULD BEGIN ON JULY 1.
2. LICENSE FEE WILL BE 20 AUST. DOLLARS A YEAR FOR EACH SET.
3. MINISTER SAID OPERATORS COULD OBTAIN LICENSES FOR EITHER ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY (UHF) BAND ("NEAR 470 MEGAHERTZ") OR 27 MEGAHERTZ HIGH FREQUENCY (HF) CB TRANSCEIVERS.
4. MINISTER SAID, HOWEVER, THAT OPERATORS WITH 23 CHANNEL HF TRANSCEIVERS WOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED TO USE A MAXIMUM OF 18 CHANNELS. THIS WOULD INCLUDE 16 CHANNELS ALREADY AVAILABLE

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AND TWO EXTRA CHANNELS WHICH COULD BE ADDED TO CURRENT TRANSCEIVERS FOR AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONS. CB OPERATORS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED TO USE CHANNELS 1 TO 4, 10, 21 OR 23 ON CURRENT IMPORTED SETS.

5. UNTIL 31 AUGUST ANY HF 23-CHANNEL EQUIPMENT MAY BE LICENSED PROVIDED IT IS WITHIN POWER LIMITS (5 WATT DSB OR 12 WATT PEP SSB).

FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1977 ONLY HF EQUIPMENT MEETING THE US 1976 TECHNICAL STANDARDS WILL BE LICENSED. FROM JANUARY 1, 1978, ALL NEW AND NOT PREVIOUSLY LICENSED HF EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE TO MEET NEW AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS; EMBASSY WILL OBTAIN THESE STANDARDS AND TRANSMIT THEM IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.

6. 40 CHANNEL US TYPE HF EQUIPMENT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE LICENSED.

7. MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT USE OF LINEAR AMPLIFIERS AND HIGH GAIN AERIALS ARE TOTALLY PROHIBITED.

8. MINISTER SAID TRANSCEIVERS WOULD BE LICENSED PRIMARILY FOR MOBILE OPERATIONS. A LICENSE FOR A FIXED BASE CB STATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY IF THE OPERATORS WERE ABLE TO SATISFY THE DEPARTMENT OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE NEED AND THAT THE STATION WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT NEARBY.

9. LICENSES MAY BE RENEWED ANNUALLY BY THE ORIGINAL LICENSEE, BUT LICENSES ON HF SETS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AFTER JUNE 30, 1978.

10. MINISTER RENEWED PREVIOUS POLICY STATEMENT THAT FROM JUNE 1982 ALL CB OPERATORS MUST SWITCH TO UHF ("NEAR 470 MEGAHERTZ").

11. COMMENT: SOME EXPERTS EXPECT THAT CB SETS MEETING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW AUSTRALIAN STANDARD WILL RETAIL FOR SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 100 AUST. DOLLARS FOR MOBILE EQUIPMENT AND 300 AUST. DOLLARS FOR MAIN-POWERED "BASE-STATION" INSTALLATIONS. CURRENTLY, A WALKIE-TALKIE TYPE SET, 23 CHANNELS, 1 WATT OF POWER, IS BEING ADVERTISED FOR ABOUT 40 AUST. DOLLARS; A 23 CHANNEL, 4 WATT UNIT FOR ABOUT 110 AUST. DOLLARS; A 23 CHANNEL SSB UNIT WITH 15 WATTS OF POWER, FOR ABOUT 240 AUST. DOLLARS.

12. SOME SMALL IMPORTERS HAVE OF LATE BEEN IMPORTING JAPANESE BUILT 23 CHANNEL EQUIPMENT ORIGINALLY MADE FOR U.S. MARKET BUT WHICH NOW VIRTUALLY UNSELLABLE THERE SINCE ADVENT OF 40 CHANNEL CB IN AMERICA. EXPERTS WARN, HOWEVER, THAT MANY OF THESE IMPORTERS HAVE NOT IMPORTED SUITABLE STOCKS OF SPARE PARTS AND THAT JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS NO LONGER MAKING SUCH PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT WHICH IS OUTDATED ON U.S. MARKET. SERVICE ON THIS TYPE EQUIPMENT IS LIKELY TO BE MARGINAL. IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER MANY OF THESE SETS WILL MEET US 76 STANDARDS AND VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT MEET NEW AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS.

13. FUTURE MEDIUM-TERM SALES PROSPECTS FOR U.S. MADE EQUIPMENT WILL DEPEND WHETHER IT CAN MEET NEW AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS.

IN THE LONG TERM, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER U.S. MANUFACTURERS  
WILL PRODUCE UHF 247 MEGAHERTZ EQUIPMENT. WE SUSPECT THAT MANY  
NEW CB RADIOERS, FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF A 27 MEGAHERTZ,  
23 CHANNEL SET THAT WILL NOT BE LICENSEABLE IN FIVE YEARS,  
WILL OPT FOR THE UHF EQUIPMENT DESPITE ITS HIGHER COST.

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R 280219Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0735  
AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
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AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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14. THE NORMAL RATE OF DUTY ON CB RADIOS IS 30 PERCENT,  
ALTHOUGH SOME TYPES OF SETS ARE ALLOWED IN DUTY FREE UNDER  
AUSTRALIA'S "BY-LAW" PROGRAM.

15. THERE IS A 15 PERCENT SALES TAX ON ALL MODELS.

16. TO RECAP THE FOLLOWING ARE PLANNED AUSTRALIAN LICENSING  
REGULATIONS. (FOR INITIAL LICENSING OF CB EQUIPMENT):

A. JULY 1, 1977-AUGUST 31, 1977 - ALL 23 CHANNEL HF  
EQUIPMENT WITHIN PRESCRIBED POWER LIMITS, AND UHF EQUIPMENT  
(470 MEGAHERTZ). LICENSES ON HF EQUIPMENT MAY BE RENEWED  
ONLY THROUGH JUNE 1982.

B. SEPTEMBER 1, 1977-DECEMBER 31, 1977 - 23 CHANNEL HF  
EQUIPMENT MEETING US 1976 TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND UHF  
EQUIPMENT. LICENSES ON HF EQUIPMENT MAY BE RENEWED ONLY  
THROUGH JUNE 30, 1982.

C. JANUARY 1, 1978-JUNE 30, 1982 - HF EQUIPMENT MEETING  
NEW AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS (PRESUMABLY EQUIPMENT LIMITED TO  
DESIGNATED 18 CHANNELS) AND UHF EQUIPMENT. LICENSES ON HF  
EQUIPMENT MAY BE RENEWED ONLY THROUGH JUNE 1982.

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D. JULY 1, 1982 AND THEREAFTER - ONLY UHF EQUIPMENT WILL  
BE LICENSED AND CONTINUED LICENSING OF PREVIOUSLY LICENSED HF  
EQUIPMENT WILL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED.

E. LICENSING OF 40 CHANNEL HF EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE  
ALLOWED, IN ANY OF THE FOREGOING TIME PERIODS.  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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